

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed October 23, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 6-15, 17-27, and 29-32 are currently pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 9, 13, 17, 18, 26, and 29. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all pending claims.

I. SUMMARY OF THE EXAMINER'S ACTIONS

Claims 20-25 and 32 are allowable over the prior art.

Claims 3, 6-12, 16-18, 28, and 29 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are considered to have allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 13-15, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kong* (U.S. 5,859,548).

Claims 26, 27, 30, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Rovell* (U.S. 4,247,791).

II. SUMMARY OF APPLICANT'S AMENDMENTS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 9, 13, 17, 18, 26, and 29.

III. REMARKS

The Examiner indicated that claims 3, 6-12, 16-18, 28, and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 3; Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 16; and Claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 28. Claims 6, 17, and 18 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 7-12, 14, 15, 19, 27, and 29-31 now depend from Claims 1, 6, 13, 17, 18, or 26. It is therefore respectfully submitted Claims 1, 6, 13, 17, 18, and 26 are allowable. Claim 9 has been amended to

correct a typographical error in the first word of the claim ("The"). Hence, it is respectfully submitted all pending claims are now allowable. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the above amendments and these remarks, reconsideration of claims 1, 2, 6-15, 17-27, and 29-32 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned practitioner by telephone.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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